



EMERGENCY EVACUATION GUIDELINES

EVACUATIONS SAVE LIVES AND ALLOW RESPONDERS TO FOCUS ON THE EMERGENCY
PLEASE EVACUATE PROMPTLY WHEN REQUESTED!

BE PREPARED BEFORE A WILDFIRE THREATENS:

- Create and maintain a **Defensible Space*** - This is an area where vegetation has been modified to protect your home and to provide a safe area for firefighters to operate in while battling a wildfire
- Make your home and your landscaping as **Fire Resistant*** possible - use fire resistant plants and building materials
- Be involved in **Fire Safety Planning*** in your community
- Identify at least two evacuation routes out of your area and practice driving the routes before an actual emergency. Keep in mind that during a wildfire event, local authorities may close roads and establish alternate routes
- Be prepared to transport horses, livestock and pets

Also

- Prepare an EVACUATION CHECKLIST and ORGANIZE:
 - A Family Disaster Preparedness Kit*** including:
 - Important personal papers
 - Essential valuables, photos, etc.
 - Cell phone, change of clothes and toiletries
 - Critical medications
 - Emergency food and water

*For more information on any of these concepts visit:
www.lanecounty.org/Planning/Wildfire_Project.htm

IF AN EVACUATION IS A POSSIBILITY:

- Locate your **Evacuation Checklist** and assemble the items on it. **PLACE THEM IN YOUR VEHICLE.**
- Park your vehicle facing outward and carry your car keys with you.
- Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- Prepare farm animals for transport.
- Place connected garden hoses and buckets full of water around the house.
- Assemble fire fighting tools near an outside door (shovel, rake, hoe).
- Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- Cover-up: wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, dry bandanna for face cover, goggles or glasses - 100% cotton clothing is preferable.
- Leave lights on in the house - door unlocked.
- Leave windows closed - air conditioning off.
- Shut off natural gas and/or propane at the source before evacuating.

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THE EVACUATION PROCESS

Law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for enforcing an evacuation order. **Follow their directions promptly!**

Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and the routes to use depending upon the fire's location, behavior, winds, terrain, etc.

You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible but **you must take the initiative to stay informed and aware.**

Listen to your radio/TV and for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.

You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.

When heavy smoke reduces visibility movement may be restricted only to escorted convoys.

IF YOU BECOME TRAPPED

While in your vehicle:

- Stay Calm.
- Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation.
- Close all vehicle windows and vents.
- Cover yourself with wool blanket or jacket.
- Lie on vehicle floor.
- Use your cell phone to advise officials: 911.

While on foot:

- Stay Calm.
- Go to an area clear of vegetation, a ditch or depression if possible.
- Lie face down, cover up.
- Use your cell phone to advise officials: 911.

While in your home:

- Stay calm and keep your family together.
- Call 911 - tell authorities where you are.
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water.
- Keep doors and windows closed, but UNLOCKED.
- Stay inside your house
- Stay away from outside walls and windows
- Remove combustible materials from proximity of windows and glass doors.

RETURNING HOME

Fire officials will determine when it is safe for you to return home. This will be based on safety and accessibility considerations.

When you do return home:

- Be alert for downed power lines and other hazards.
- Check propane tanks, regulators, and lines before turning gas on.
- Check your residence carefully for hidden embers or smoldering fires.

After the fire passes, and if it is safe, check the following areas for fire:

- The roof and house exterior
- Under decks and inside your attic
- The yard for burning trees/woodpiles
- Extinguish embers and sparks!

THE LAW

A county, city or municipal corporation may authorize an agency or official to order mandatory evacuations of residents and other individuals after a declaration of a state of emergency within the jurisdiction is declared. An evacuation under an ordinance or resolution authorized by this section shall be ordered only when necessary for public safety or when necessary for the efficient conduct of activities that minimize or mitigate the effects of the emergency (**ORS 401.309**). **BE AWARE;** after a mandatory evacuation order goes into effect, **emergency responders will not risk their lives to save you should you choose to stay at your home after the order.**